

In the Claims:

Please amend the Claims as follows and without prejudice. This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method to encrypt a data message having a plurality of message data blocks prior to transmitting said message data blocks over a network, said method comprising:

extracting a data value from one of said message data blocks;

selecting an encryption key from among a plurality of encryption keys

dependently upon said extracted data value; and,

encrypting a subsequent one of said message data blocks using said selected encryption key.

Claims 2 - 32. (CANCELLED)

33. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein said extracting, selecting and encrypting are iteratively repeated for each of said message data blocks.

34. (NEW) The method of claim 33, further comprising:

receiving each of said encrypted message data blocks;

decrypting each said received, encrypted message data block using a key based on a prior received message data block;

extracting a data value from each said decrypted message data block.

35. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein said extracted data value is determined using a known number of bits.

36. (NEW) The method of claim 35, wherein said known number of bits are distributed among at least one data byte of said one of said message blocks.

37. (NEW) The method of claim 35, wherein said known number of bits are located in a first byte of said one of said message blocks.

38. (NEW) The method of claim 35, wherein said known number of bits are located in a last byte of said one of said message blocks.

39. (NEW) The method of claim 34, wherein each said received message block corresponds to at least one unencrypted message data block.

40. (NEW) The method of claim 34, wherein said received message data block corresponds to a synchronizing indicator.

41. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of extracting further comprises limiting said extracted data value to a known range.

42. (NEW) The method of claim 41, wherein said known range is determined using modulo-arithmetic.

43. (NEW) The method of claim 41, wherein said known range is associated with a number of said stored encryption keys.